(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Centre-State relations are governed by the provisions of the Constitution. The (Sarkaria) Commission on Centre-State Relations which was set up by the Government in June 1983 to study the working of the existing arrangements between the Union and the States was of the view that the working of the Constitution since its inception, demonstrated that its fundamental scheme and provisions have withstood reasonably well the test of time. In the Commission's view "it is neither advisable nor necessary to make any drastic changes in the basic character of the Constitution" It is felt that the Centre-State relations are evolutionary in nature and provisions of the Constitution governing them have to be under constant review The Constitution has been amended a number of times to adjust its working to the changing situations

Over charging of Telephone Bills

*90 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from telephone subscribers including Members of Parliament regarding over charging of telephone bills including charges on telephones that have been completely out of use;

(b) if so, the reasons for such inflated bills, and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It is found that genuine complaints are normally on account of:

(a) clerical errors in the recording and transcription of meter readings and in calculation and preparation of bills;

(b) technical faults in the registration of calls, especially in case of electro-mechnical exchanges and

(c) faulty circuit connections and cross connections.

(c) The remedial measures proposed and already under implementation are phasing out of old telephone exchanges, computerisation of telephone billing, continuous monitoring of exchange equipment and external plant and precautions against unauthorised use

Cotton cultivation

*91 SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cotton cultivation in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Union Government to bring more area under cotton cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The area under cotton in nine major producing states of the country during 1989-90 is given as below:—

('000 hectares)

State	*Area*
Punjab	732.0
Haryana	468.0
Rajasthan	434.2
Gujarat	837.2
Maharashtra	2635.5
Madhya Pradesh	574.1
Andhra Pradesh	657.0
Tamilnadu	267.5
Karnataka	681.7
Others	43.6
Total	7330.8

(b) Apart from assuring remunerative prices for cotton, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme—Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is under implementation in the nine major cotton growing States for increasing its area, production and productivity.

Atrocities on women

*92. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of atrocities on women including bride-burning rape and girl infanticide reported in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to curb such cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B CHAVAN): (a) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes including those against women are the responsibility of the State Governments. Available information showing the number of cases of atrocities on women including bride-burning etc. registered during the years 1988, 1989 and 1990 is given in the Statement below Statistics on girls infanticide are not separately collected and compiled by the Central agencies

(b) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has been amended to make the provisions more stringent and effective The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have been amended by the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 1983 to deal effectively not only with dowry death cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women.

According to standing instructions investigation in a dowry death case is to be done by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, the postmortem is to be done by a team of two doctors and disposal of the body is not to be allowed without post-mortem

Instructions have been issued to State Governments from time to time to take effective action for prevention and detection of crimes against women

The Department of Women & Child Development have also taken measures for removal of flaws in existing legislation pertaining to women, setting up of a National Commission on Women and assistance to organisations involved in the uplift of women

STATEMENT

Number of cases registered in the Country under Crimes against Women during the years 1988 to 1990

S. No.	*Crime Head*	*Cases Registered During*		
		1988	*1989*	*1990*
1	2	3	4	5
1	Rape	8706	9150	9517
2	Molestation	17836	20497	20186
3	Kidnapping & Abduction of Women & Girls	9633	11673	11689
4.	Eve-Teasing	10109	9934	8620